

Pet Food Containing Bovinae* Ingredients

As of April 23, 2004, pet foods, including those with ingredients derived from animals of the sub-family Bovinae*, may be imported into Canada without a permit. Requirements for entry may be met either through an importer's declaration or through certification by APHIS using VS 16-4, Animal Product Export Certificate.

Importer's Declaration

At the time of importation, the Canadian importer or broker working in behalf of the importer, must submit a copy of the label or a list of ingredients (on manufacturing company letterhead stationary) of the pet food. If the pet food contains ingredients derived from animals of the sub-family Bovinae*, the importer must provide a declaration that such ingredients are derived from animals:

- from which Bovinae specified risk materials (SRMs)** have been removed;
OR
- that originated in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, New Zealand, or Uruguay.

The declaration submitted by the importer must correspond to the shipment by means of container numbers, invoice numbers, shipping marks, lot number, or other identification method.

Veterinary Services Certification

In lieu of using the importer's declaration, as described above, pet foods may also enter Canada on a VS 16-4, Animal Product Export Certificate endorsed by the applicable VS Area Office. Product containing Bovinae* derived ingredients must be certified as follows:

“The product contains Bovinae* derived ingredients that were either:

__1) legally imported from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, New Zealand, or Uruguay; OR

__2) derived from animals from which Bovinae* specified risk materials (SRMS)** have been removed.”

Inspection of the manufacturing facility by VS will be necessary to provide this certification. Manufacturers will need to provide proof that the Bovinae* ingredients are either SRM-free or that they were legally imported from one of the countries listed above.

*The sub-family Bovinae includes cattle, bison, and buffalo

****Specified risk material (SRMs) are defined as the skull, brain, eyes, trigeminal ganglia, spinal cord, vertebral column (excluding the vertebrae of the tail, transverse processes of the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae, and the wings of the sacrum), and dorsal root ganglia of Bovinae 30 months of age or older; and the tonsil and distal ileum of the small intestine of Bovinae of any age. Mechanically separated meat (MSM), which may contain spinal cord and dorsal root ganglia, is also included as SRMs.**